

been seen as just a typical tourist day in the Capitol.

Well, let me tell that gentleman that on typical tourist days in the Capitol, 100 policemen aren't beaten by people who try to enter the Capitol when it is closed to public attendance because of the coronavirus.

On typical tourist days, people don't put excrement on the walls of the Capitol of the United States.

On typical tourist days, people don't urinate on the floors of the Capitol of the United States.

On typical days, people don't batter down the windows on the outside to breach the Capitol.

On typical days, people don't batter down the doors and the glass entering the Speaker's lobby, resulting in one person's death. And if that person wasn't dead, they would have breached the floor of the House and God knows what they would have done if they could have found a person in the House.

They were hollering, "Hang Mike Pence," "NANCY PELOSI, where are you? We are here." That was an insurrection. That was an attack on our Constitution. It should never be forgotten by anybody who was serving in the Congress, by any American because our liberty, our Constitution, our country, our values were on the line.

□ 1145

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

(Ms. VAN DUYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize our men and women in uniform who dedicate their lives to keeping communities across our Nation safe.

This past year was the deadliest year for police officers in decades; 264 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty.

As mayor or Irving, I was a proud advocate of our local police department. And as the Representative of the 24th District in Texas, I will continue to stand with our law enforcement.

Rather than defunding and devaluing those in uniform, I know from experience that community policing works and community policing only exists with the support of our officers, higher retention, and improved recruitment.

I thank our police officers, first responders, and their families. Getting up every morning and putting on the badge is a level of courage few will ever understand.

We join you in respecting, honoring, and remembering your fallen brothers and sisters in blue.

HONORING OFFICERS WHO MADE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, this week honors law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities, and it also recognizes the incredible contributions, hard work, dedication, and loyalty of our law enforcement officers.

I rise to recognize the nine law enforcement officers who lost their lives last year while serving Michigan: Stephen Splan, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; Jonathan Parnell, of Wayne County; Waldis Johnson, of Wayne County; William Darnell, of DeWitt Township; Caleb Starr, of the Michigan State Police; our beloved Benny Napoleon, of Wayne County; Bryant Searcy, of Wayne County; Dean Savard, of Wayne County; and Donafay Collins, of Wayne County.

We also remember our beloved Collin Rose, who lost his life in 2016 to gun violence while serving at Wayne State. Our community rose up to support his family. We honor his contributions.

My friend, Eddie Osmond, the owner of a Marathon gas station, used pennies on the dollar as people were pumping their gas to raise \$10,000 for this man's family.

That is part of what we are here to recognize, the contributions of our law enforcement officers.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. NEHLS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, May 15, is National Peace Officers Memorial Day, a day to honor and remember the more than 22,000 brave law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Having served in law enforcement for 30 years, I am proud to see so many of my colleagues recognizing the sacrifice of these brave officers this week. They certainly deserve it.

But truly honoring their sacrifice means doing so every day, not just on May 15 and not just this week. That means giving law enforcement the tools necessary to keep our communities safe, pushing back against any and all attempts to demonize and diminish their service, and doing everything we can to reduce the attacks against law enforcement.

Now more than ever, law enforcement across our country needs true Americans to boldly stand with them. That is what I am proud to do here today. And I ask every one of my colleagues and the American people to do so, as well.

RECEIVING CHILD TAX CREDIT PAYMENTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, this week was designated as the Child Tax Credit Week of Action. The outpouring of stories and news articles coming from across the country describing just how transformational this assistance will be for families is heartwarming.

I am so proud that in the American Rescue Plan we fought for and won the expansion and improvement of the child tax credit. Its inclusion was historic but just a first step. We must make this expansion permanent.

The child tax credit is a lifeline to the middle class, cuts child poverty by 55 percent this year, and provides children and their families with additional payments throughout the year that help them with the costs of food, childcare, diapers, healthcare, clothing, and taxes. Poor, working, and middle-class families—90 percent of our children—will receive the same monthly benefits.

We must spread the word about the benefits of the child tax credit, how families can start to receive that monthly check starting in July. If people have filed a tax return, they are all set. If they have not filed their tax return, and their family is eligible for the tax credit, they must file by May 17. Even if they typically do not file, this ensures that they will receive a monthly benefit.

Let's get the word out. Let's get people signed up.

ESCALATING ATTACKS ON ISRAEL

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep concern over the escalating attacks on the Israeli people by Palestinian terror groups like Hamas.

After a period of relative stability in the region, these attacks threaten to create an all-out war that will endanger millions. This is an avoidable outcome born of inattention and incompetence.

It is no coincidence that this violence has erupted as the Biden administration has pivoted away from the Middle East. The leadership vacuum created by this absence can only allow radical elements who would harm us and our allies. It is maddening to see the progress made under the Trump administration toward stabilizing the Middle East undone.

It was less than a year ago that the Abraham Accords, perhaps the most significant move toward peace in the region in over a decade or longer, were signed. We cannot let these gains be wasted.

The American people stand firmly behind the people of Israel. They have every right to defend themselves. Their existence depends on it.

The Biden administration must abandon its retreat and reengage on the previous successful peace process in the

Middle East. We cannot abandon our strong ally in Israel by our indifference or inaction, especially when they need us most.

PROTECTING ISRAEL IS DUTY OF UNITED STATES

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Madam Speaker, the deadly conflict plaguing Israel becomes worse and worse each day.

Since Monday, the vile and despicable terrorist organization Hamas has launched over 1,000 rockets from Gaza into Israeli population centers.

The fact that Members of this body are speaking out in support of these terrorists leaves me sickened. The differences between these two sides are shocking. There is no debate that if Israel were to lay down their arms entirely, there would be a genocide. But if Hamas were to lay down their arms, there would be nothing but peace.

The fact that Representatives here in this Chamber would side with violent extremists is mind-boggling. I encourage these Members to go to Gaza, see how they murder members of the LGBTQ community, see how they marginalize and abuse women, how they treat those of different faiths.

Let me be clear: There is no moral equivalency between these two sides. It is our duty to protect Israel, and if anyone is to ever invade Israel, I promise you that there is no crevice on Earth that will conceal you from the wrath of God.

I would also be remiss to not recognize that some Members of this body in the majority party have spoken out against Hamas, and for that, I thank you.

HONORING POLICE OFFICERS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, it is good to be an American because as I stand here today during National Police Week, I can truly say that across America, we honor the police officer who holds a child's hand. We honor the police officer who comes to an emergency situation.

I honor the police officers who, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, were on the front lines without testing or vaccination, helping many others. I know, Madam Speaker, because they helped me. They helped me with my testing sites. Now, they help me with my vaccination sites.

I want to remind them they will be helping me tomorrow, and that is Saturday the 15th, when we are at Key Middle School and Heights High School, vaccinating children 12 to 15 years old with the Pfizer vaccination, from 2 to 5 at Key Middle School and 10 to 1 at Heights High School.

We mourn those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. That is because we are Americans, and we stand united in that effort. There can be no divide. We know who we believe in and what we believe in. We thank them so very much, and we also believe in the liberties of all people.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it has been interesting. I get to take my mask off under the rules now.

We haven't quite caught up with the science here in the House. The House of Representatives that has leadership proclaiming that we need to follow the science refuses to do so, so far. But we are hoping we will eventually get at least the majority of people here to follow the science.

It has been an interesting time, not a good time, not a wonderful, enriching time to be in the House of Representatives. It has been an exceedingly frustrating time.

After January 6, apparently, the number one goal here in the House was something referred to as optics. According to the Sergeant at Arms, the reason the National Guard was not brought up in advance on January 6, so there would be no one entering the Capitol that was not desired to enter the Capitol, was that word, "optics."

So, the Capitol Police, doing the best they could, were left to fend for themselves without the support they needed. It is a big place. But had the number one concern before January 6 by people here in Washington, at the Capitol, at least, if that number one concern had not been optics, there would have been no one coming into the Capitol that we didn't want to be in the Capitol.

Since then, we have been entertained by all kinds of false statements, false allegations. It has really been amazing. The number one thing we keep coming back to is, apparently, it is not about getting at the truth. It is all about optics.

The top person charged with the safety of Members of Congress, the head of the Capitol Police, months ago indicated that there was no intel from any source that any Member of Congress was at risk or a threat to any other Member of Congress. No Member of Congress was at risk from another Member of Congress.

Since then, as I understand it, there was an ethics charge leveled at MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE that she was encouraging a debate with another Member of Congress and somehow that is apparently an ethics violation.

I had a Democrat some years back come up and threaten to kick my buttocks. I think he used other language.

But had he swung, I might have filed a complaint.

Here on the House floor, what we have are words. We get into very heated debates at times because we care deeply about the things we care deeply about. But those are not assaults.

There have been assaults in the Capitol, and I know memory is apparently a big question these days, but when the President of the United States stands right up here at the second level, as Presidents have since this opened before 1860, and have made speeches—in this case, it wasn't to a joint session; it was to an invitation-only session—but he indicated that what happened on January 6 was the worst attack on democracy since the Civil War.

□ 1200

So being an ongoing student of history since Coach Sam Parker instilled a love in me for history, especially American history—the good, the bad, the ugly, the incredible—I have continued to be a student of American history, and World history as well.

So sometimes it is helpful for those who don't know our history or can't remember our history to be reminded that since the Civil War put an end to slavery in America, even though it took an ordained Christian preacher resolutely, peacefully advocating for civil rights, and that the Constitution should be used as a document that means what it says.

And as the Declaration of Independence made clear, we are endowed not by government, but by our creator with certain unalienable rights.

And Dr. King's letters from the Birmingham jail, as he was unjustly incarcerated, pretty powerful words from a man full of vision. We miss his vision. I think things would be very different if he were still alive today. The assassin did great damage to the United States of America, and the benefits that we would have had from a visionary still if he were alive today.

Because there are some who say if you even use words to debate, that somehow you are an insurrectionist, you need to be jailed. And that has been happening since January 6. In fact, January 6 of 2017, I believe there were 11 different Democrats that stood up and forcefully objected to the results and to the electors that were voting for President Trump.

And there was not a single Republican I ever heard on our side of the aisle that accused them of trying to overthrow the government, insurrection—all these things that some of us have been accused of—simply wanting a fair election in which the votes of tens of millions of Americans were not disenfranchised. The very same thing even our current Speaker has said back in prior days about prior elections.

So imagine the shock for those of us who, for the last 20 years, had been preached to by people on the other side of the aisle about the unfairness of election, the vulnerability of electronic